

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Steel for mechanical components, wherein the composition thereof is, in percentages by weight:

- $0.19\% \leq C \leq 0.25\%$ ;
- $1.1\% \leq Mn \leq 1.5\%$ ;
- $0.8\% \leq Si \leq 1.2\%$ ;
- $0.01\% \leq S \leq 0.09\%$ ;
- trace levels  $\leq P \leq 0.025\%$ ;
- trace levels  $\leq Ni \leq 0.25\%$ ;
- $1\% \leq Cr \leq 1.4\%$ ;
- $0.10\% \leq Mo \leq 0.25\%$ ;
- trace levels  $\leq Cu \leq 0.30\%$ ;
- $0.010\% \leq Al \leq 0.045\%$ ;
- $0.010\% \leq Nb \leq 0.045\%$ ;
- $0.0130\% \leq N \leq 0.0300\%$ ;
- optionally trace levels  $\leq Bi \leq 0.10\%$  and/or trace levels  $\leq Pb \leq 0.12\%$

and/or trace levels  $\leq Te \leq 0.015\%$  and/or trace levels  $\leq Se \leq 0.030\%$  and/or trace levels  $\leq Ca \leq 0.0050\%$ ;

the balance being iron and impurities resulting from the production operation, the chemical composition being adjusted so that the mean values  $J_{3m}$ ,  $J_{11m}$ ,  $J_{15m}$  and  $J_{25m}$  for five Jominy tests are such that:

$$\alpha = | J_{11m} - J_{3m} \times 14/22 - J_{25m} \times 8/22 | \leq 2.5 \text{ HRC; and}$$

$$\beta = J_{3m} - J_{15m} \leq 9 \text{ HRC.}$$

2. (Original) Steel for mechanical components according to claim 1, wherein the composition thereof is adjusted so that

$$\beta = J_{3m} - J_{15m} \leq 8 \text{ HRC.}$$

3. (Original) Steel for mechanical components according to claim 1, wherein the composition thereof is:

- $0.19\% \leq C \leq 0.25\%$ ;
- $1.2\% \leq Mn \leq 1.5\%$ ;
- $0.85\% \leq Si \leq 1.2\%$ ;
- $0.01\% \leq S \leq 0.09\%$ ;
- trace levels  $\leq P \leq 0.025\%$ ;
- $0.08\% \leq Ni \leq 0.25\%$ ;
- $1.1\% \leq Cr \leq 1.4\%$ ;
- $0.10\% \leq Mo \leq 0.25\%$ ;
- $0.06\% \leq Cu \leq 0.30\%$ ;
- $0.010\% \leq Al \leq 0.045\%$ ;
- $0.015\% \leq Nb \leq 0.045\%$ ;
- $0.0130\% \leq N \leq 0.0300\%$ ;
- optionally trace levels  $\leq Bi \leq 0.07\%$  and/or trace levels  $\leq Pb \leq 0.12\%$  and/or

trace levels  $\leq Te \leq 0.010\%$  and/or trace levels  $\leq Se \leq 0.020\%$  and/or trace levels  $\leq Ca \leq 0.045\%$ ,  
the balance being iron and impurities resulting from the production operation.

4. (Original) Steel for mechanical components according to claim 3, wherein the composition thereof is:

- $0.20\% \leq C \leq 0.25\%$ ;
- $1.21\% \leq Mn \leq 1.45\%$ ;
- $0.85\% \leq Si \leq 1.10\%$ ;
- $0.01\% \leq S \leq 0.08\%$ ;
- trace levels  $\leq P \leq 0.020\%$ ;
- $0.08\% \leq Ni \leq 0.20\%$ ;
- $1.10\% \leq Cr \leq 1.40\%$ ;
- $0.11\% \leq Mo \leq 0.25\%$ ;
- $0.08\% \leq Cu \leq 0.30\%$ ;

-  $0.010\% \leq \text{Al} \leq 0.035\%$ ;  
-  $0.025\% \leq \text{Nb} \leq 0.040\%$ ;  
-  $0.0130\% \leq \text{N} \leq 0.0220\%$ ;  
- optionally trace levels  $\leq \text{Bi} \leq 0.07\%$  and/or trace levels  $\leq \text{Pb} \leq 0.12\%$  and/or  
trace levels  $\leq \text{Te} \leq 0.010\%$  and/or trace levels  $\leq \text{Se} \leq 0.020\%$  and/or trace levels  $\leq \text{Ca} \leq 0.045\%$ ,  
the balance being iron and impurities resulting from the production operation.

5-8. (Cancelled)